

CALENDAR

Under this heading you will find the listing of activities and events of affiliated member organization. If you want your group events listed here, send the date, time, place, contact name and phone in an envelope marked " CALENDAR " to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Allow at least six weeks for publication. Listings are the responsibility of organization officers. For a list of other groups, see " **CONTACTS** " later in this issue or in back issues starting January, 1983.

Date	City	Chapter	Time	Address	Contact No.
Jul 5	Oberlin OH	^Ob^Os	7:00pm	Lower level, Main library, Oberlin College	216-775-8706
Jul 6	Stockton CA	SOG	7:00pm	Allen's Computerland	209-473-8440
Jul 7	Santa Clara CA	SC FOG	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Dr.	408-947-1650
Jul 8	Salinas CA	MBAOCUG	7:00pm	Hartnell College, CRAC Bldg Room 209	408-722-4272
Jul 10	Miami FL	GCOUG	1:00pm	F.I.U Tamiami Campus, Bldg DM, Rm 100	305-255-7391
Jul 12	Ames IA	Midwest FOG	6:30pm	Iowa State (old engineering annex) W. Lincoln Wy	515-266-8764
Jul 12	Las Vegas NV	VOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM — Cannon Jr. HS, Eastern & Russell Avenues	702-293-3636
Jul 12	Vancouver BC	VPCC	7:30pm	Hastings Community Ctr, 3096 E. Hastings	604-298-6990
Jul 12	Memphis TN	MOG	7:00pm	34th Fl, Clark Bldg, Fed. Express Conf. Rm.	901-797-6024
Jul 13	Oakland CA	East Bay FOG	6:00pm	B & B Electric 2832 Ford Street	415-841-5900
Jul 13	Wenatchee WA	WOG	7:00pm	1030 N. Wenatchee	509-884-3279
Jul 14	Davis CA	DOG	7:30pm	Davis Science Center, 525 'C' St	916-756-2967
Jul 14	Orlando FL	GOOUG	7:00pm	2904 E. Colonial Drive	305-898-5290
Jul 16	Kenai AK	PenFOG	10:00am	Rm V111, Kenai Peninsula Comm. College	907-283-4950
Jul 18	Raleigh NC	ROCC	7:30pm	128 Polk Hall, NC State University	919-787-7353
Jul 18	Detroit MI	DeFOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM — Ford EOB Bldg, Rotunda Dr, Dearborn	313-474-1342
Jul 20	Oak Ridge TN	SMOG	7:30pm	CONFIRM — Educational Comp. Serv., 136 Fairbanks	615-482-7919
Jul 20	Humboldt CA	HOG	7:00pm	Rm 126 Science Bldg, Humboldt State	707-822-1877
Jul 21	Santa Clara CA	SC FOG	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Dr.	408-947-1650
Jul 21	Cincinnati OH	COG	7:00pm	Central Trust Center, 5th & Main Streets	513-232-4076
Jul 21	Denver CO	DOG	8:00pm	Business Admin Bldg, Univ of Denver	303-934-1407
Jul 21	Orlando FL	GOOUG	7:00pm	2904 E. Colonial Drive	305-898-5290
Jul 27	Richland WA	TROG		CONFIRM	509-375-3258
Jul 28	San Francisco CA	SF FOG	7:30pm	St. Aidan's Church, Diamond Heights & Goldmine Dr.	415-334-2851
Jul 28	Orlando FL	GOOUG	7:00pm	2904 E. Colonial Drive	305-898-5290

The First Osborne Group (FOG) has been formed as a users' group for all persons who use or are interested in portable computers. Membership is available to any interested party whether or not they currently own a computer. The FOGHORN is published monthly by the First Osborne Group for its members. A subscription is included with membership in FOG: US — \$24.00/yr.; elsewhere — add \$6.00 for postage. Address all inquiries to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

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Submissions

All articles, letters-to-the-editor, member announcements, classified ads, etc., should be WordStar files, "D" mode (except for program listings), formatted to 65 columns, with **paragraphs indented (5) spaces, NO PRINT COMMANDS, and Hyphen-Help OFF**. They should be on (Osborne 1 readable) diskettes. The submissions can be sent in the mail (to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474), copied to a FOG diskette at a Santa Clara FOG meeting, delivered (by arrangement) to a FOG officer, or sent by modem to the editor (408-249-5223) or other officer of FOG. "By Modem" is by far the most convenient method. If you don't have a modem, get together with a friend who does and send your file. It will be a fun experience.

Commercial Advertising

Commercial ads can either be submitted as document files, using the same parameters as those listed for articles etc., above or as camera ready copy. If you submit a full page ad on disk, use the Wordstar default margins (55 lines, 70 columns). Half page ads are 27 lines by 70 columns or 55 lines by 35 columns.

Size limitations for camera ready art are as follows:

full page: 7" x 9.5"

half page: 3.5" x 9.5" or 7" x 4.75"

quarter page: 3.5" x 4.75"

Rates, effective with the March, 1983 issue are:

\$270/full page, \$150/half page, \$105/quarter page

For advertisers who wish to run ads in three sequential issues, a special rate is available. Three months at the rate in effect at the time the order is placed and paid in full providing the ads are run in the subsequent three issues. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the rates monthly and increasing them as the membership grows.

Submission Deadlines

Advertising material is due two months in advance of the month of publication. (June 1st for the August issue). No exceptions will be made.

Other material is also due two months in advance of the month of publication (June 1st for the August issue). This change is necessary if the **FOGHORN** is to be mailed before the first of the month. Articles which are not month-specific may be submitted at any time. Please, avoid the deadline rush; contribute early.

These deadlines may be moved up so watch this column for changes in the policy.

Back Issues — Reprints

Reprints of back issues may be ordered. The current cost of back issues is \$1.50 per issue to cover reprint and mailing costs. Donations of additional sums will be gratefully accepted.

All issues are available. When we run out of copies from the original printing, we have more printed. Not all issues are of value to new members. Vol. 1 No. 1 (October, 1981) was primarily a greeting and a plea for help in getting this group going. Vol. 2 No. 3 (December, 1982) was a 2 page issue with holiday greetings and an advertisement for Super Graphics. Mailed with this issue was a copy of the original bylaws which have since been modified several times.

There were 11 issues in Volume 1 since we put out a combined issue for June and July, 1982. For those who are attempting to determine which

copies from Vol. 1 are of interest, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Nov, 1982) has a partial index for Vol. 1.

Mark envelope "**BACK ISSUE REQUEST**" and include your account-membership number. Please send the order to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Orders are shipped once a week. The index to the previous year is published in the November (#2) issue.

Copies of Library Disks

FOG members may purchase copies of the library disks from FOG if the copies cannot be obtained through their local group. Individual disks are \$5.00 each. Bulk orders of 10 or more disks earn a discount of \$1.00 per disk. **Return handling charges are \$5.00 per order or address.** Orders will be shipped within a week of receipt of the order when possible.

Please be sure to include your account-membership number.

For a listing of the programs and files in the library, consult the library column in each issue of Vol. 2 (except No. 3 — December, 1982). The section of the library called -FOG/LIB includes both Jim Woolley's material from the library column and a catalog program which lists the name and disk location of each program (but no descriptions).

Affiliated members organizations may participate in a monthly update service. Only the librarian of an affiliated member organization may make arrangements to participate in this plan. Contact Gale Rhoades at P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474 (phone 415-756-0821) for further details.

Jim Woolley has been adding approximately 10 disks per month to the library. He issues the new disks on the 3rd Thurs. of each month at the Santa Clara FOG meetings. Shipments to participants in the monthly update service will be made the following week.

Rebates to Affiliated Member Organizations

Rebates of 25% of the base membership rate (\$24.00) will be made to Affiliated Member Organization on behalf of eligible members. To be eligible for the rebate, the name of the chapter **MUST** be on the membership form (or check) when the yearly dues (new or renewal) are paid.

No rebates will be made until the Affiliated Member Organization is formally approved by the Board of Trustees.

Application for Affiliated Member Organization status must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a list of the officer — names and addresses (at least three) and a signed copy of the group bylaws.

It is not necessary that a group be affiliated when the member pays the yearly dues and specifies affiliation for that member to be eligible for the rebate.

Rebates will be paid within two weeks of the Board meeting at which the chapter receives its charter. Subsequent payments will be made on a quarterly basis. Refer all questions about rebates to Gale Rhoades at P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

Change of Address

To request a change of address, send the label from a recent **FOGHORN** together with the new address either in an envelope marked "**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**" or on a Postal Change of Address Card to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please allow at least 30 days for a change of address to be effective. It is essential that you include your account-membership number in all correspondence.

FROM THE FOG

A Question of VALUE!

by Frank Morton

I think most of us have an eye open for a bargain, if we can find one. But there always seem to be some who are looking for something for nothing. Sure, we are often baited by the offer of something "free", but we soon realize that there is usually a price to be paid, one way or the other. You may think FOG was founded on the concept of "free" software, but that is not so. First (as you should well know by now), we DO NOT condone, or support in any way, the copying of proprietary software. Second, even the non-proprietary software which is available through FOG is the result of donated effort on the part of a number of persons, who rightfully expect a certain amount of reciprocal effort on the part of the rest of us!

The revolutionary concept of bundling software with hardware as a total package is obviously one of the major reasons for the success of the Osborne 1. It helped to make the package economical enough to be very attractive to many potential users. In the process, however, it may have also lent credence to the concept of "free" proprietary software. While working at the Deli one Saturday I received a call from someone who wanted me to provide him with a copy of SuperCalc. He had an OS1 which belonged to friends. It had been purchased used from another party and the SuperCalc software was missing. He had great difficulty understanding why I could not and would not provide it to him "free" (I had offered to sell him a copy). It seemed to him that since all OS1s come with a copy, and they were all the same program, he was entitled to a copy; and he was — but from the original owner with proper transfer of licensing agreement, not from me. One of the main reasons for the great cry about the dBASE II giveaway with Osbornes during the Holidays was the fact that many existing owners were trying to justify spending almost \$600.00 for what was obviously a very desirable program. If OCC had given away the WordPac while offering it at a special savings to existing users I feel there would have been much less complaints. By selecting the single most expensive program and in the eyes of many users effectively reducing its price temporarily to zero, it has been much more difficult to sell since then. Admittedly it was part of a package, and should have been construed as a "system special", but it was very difficult for many persons to see it that way.

A number of persons have come to the Deli expecting Gale, or Byron, or myself to help them get a system working which was not (or was only partially) bought at our store. They cannot understand why we are not willing to do that for them. After all, "That is what FOG is for, isn't it?" We understand that in some cases other stores have referred (their) customers to us for technical help. We started FOG to help each other, true. But when we are at work selling in the store, the one unique item that we have to sell is our knowledge. Any one can ring up a cash register and hand you a box. If we had good sense we wouldn't even be giving our hard earned knowledge away for "free" by participating in FOG. The

reason we do is that it is a two way street, we also learn from the rest of you in the process.

Let me cite a hypothetical example. I don't know what kind of work you do for a living. However, let us suppose that you are a talented carpenter, with a skill that you have worked hard to earn. Let us also suppose that I have need to build a shed in my back yard. I know how to cut lumber and hammer, and have managed to put up some walls that are passible. I may have even added a roof of sorts that is sloped enough for the rain to run off. How would you feel if I were to come to you and say that I had picked up a used door and frame. Would you please show me how to install it in my shed? You don't actually need to come to my place to install it, just draw me a schematic with directions. Would you believe that I actually had someone come to the store one Saturday expecting me to debug a Basic program for him. When I inquired, he replied that he had not bought anything there, and he had been "thinking" of maybe joining FOG. I briefly told him how he should go about searching for the bug, but I didn't take the time to do it for him. To do so would have verified his assumption that because FOG is "supposed to help people", I am available for free at anyone's convenience. In the process I would be tacitly admitting that my knowledge has no value.

The comment has been made (in print) that "Our president and our one staff person urge us to buy from them at a RETAIL store instead of getting us HUGE GROUP DISCOUNTS available". It is true, I have urged you to support your local retail store; particularly if that store supports FOG (e.g. by offering a discount to FOG members). I believe that it is virtually impossible for a sales organization to offer HUGE DISCOUNTS, of any kind, and still support the customer. The question of large group buys often come up at Users' Group meetings. It is a very tempting idea, because we all like to save money. The trouble is that the seller invariably wants the group to do all of the work organizing the order, collecting the money, and distributing the merchandise. Then the group is also liable for any of the consequences of bad merchandise, fraud, injury to purchasers, etc. The group is financially, legally, and morally responsible to make good the sale to all participating parties. This is where the additional "cost" of this great value comes in. Byron McKay, myself, and others I have spoken to, feel it is of more value to persuade a retailer to recognize that FOG represents a large buying population and that it would be to his advantage to offer us a group discount in his store. Then when we individually purchase items at our own convenience, we can return any defective items to the dealer, and get support as well as service on our hardware or software selection.

Speaking of software, I was at a local FOG meeting where the question of the public domain software came up and who should have access. I told them that although it is public domain software, members of FOG had exerted considerable effort downloading from CP/M users software, creating original software for donation, or carefully typing programs offered to the public in magazines. For this reason we hoped that all persons enjoying the use of the software would reciprocate by helping to support FOG with their membership at the very least. One person could not understand why we were so stingy and why it should not be offered to anyone who wanted it whether they offered anything in return or not. Later when I mentioned that the reason that would not work is because in time Gale, Jim, Dave, and others would get tired of working for free with no support and that would be the end of FOG; then where would he get his free software. The reply was "Well, maybe someone else would offer to do it."



What is the point of all this discourse? You seldom get something for nothing (some say never). What may seem like a real bargain may have hidden costs. Others say "You only get what you pay for!" I say "You seldom get more than you pay for, and often get less." I am suspicious of anyone who offers me an exceptional bargain. It is far better to look for a good value, a service or product for a reasonable cost, where you can you can acquire what you need with out expecting the supplier to value his efforts at nothing or close to it.

The question has been raised as to whether you had an opportunity to apply for our staff position. Actually everyone did, its just that no one was rushing in to do it for the first several months when we paid nothing for the position and it had become much more than I could handle by myself.

Naturally I cannot resist to temptation at this point to put in a plug for FOG. Now that we are past 4500 members we need a staff. Because the organization is all over the country and in many parts of the world, it is not reasonable to expect local volunteers to carry the whole load for free, although much of the work is still donated by many persons. The heavy workload on the clerical, editorial, financial and other staffs will require compensation.

The members of the Board of Trustees are working to organize an effort that will allow us to catch up and provide the services you need and deserve. It is obvious that to do it properly we will need more cash flow. That can be done by increasing the membership to become more efficient with the larger productivity, by raising the dues, by going to some kind of fund raising schemes, or all of the above.

We have changed our accounting to the accrual method, which is more realistic; a move we should have made sooner. We will have a financial report in this newsletter or the next and if we can do so in an understandable manner also show a SuperCalc analysis which shows why we need increased cash flow.

At the present time it is sufficient to say that our service and quality can be best improved by increased membership. I am sure that there may be persons who are presently enjoying the benefits of the Disk Library and even the FOGHORN without being members of FOG. To the persons enjoying such "free" benefits I say why not support us by joining? To those of you who are members we appreciate your support, and we appreciate even more your adding the personal effort of letting others know how much you enjoy FOG and asking them to join us also. We take great pleasure in the knowledge that you recognize the "value" of FOG and are a part of it!

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LETTERS

UPDATE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

It's hard to keep up-to-date in the *FOGHORN*. Here are some news and corrections for John V. Schmitz's notes in the Jan. issue.

THE MICRO LINK II (C) operates XMODEM systems and has phrase storage that can be used for operating the Hayes Smartmodem and for logons to The Source, etc. In fact, the program is entirely rewritten, not simply an update of THE MICRO LINK. It has a ring of four menus to show the status of all options, which can be saved to disk (it's like having a specialized SETUP within the program). I won't take the space to enumerate the more than a dozen new features. Price is still \$89.

Wordcraft informed OCC of THE MICRO LINK II in summer '82. Unfortunately, the old program is still in the distribution channels, far longer than it should have been. You can get THE MICRO LINK II from Digital Marketing, 2670 Cherry Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Geoffrey Sinclair
Oakland, CA

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Some Answers

Regarding James Tower's letter in the March, 1983 issue of *FOGHORN* concerning his video monitor [only 50 of his 52 characters show on the screen]. I have a Sanyo VM4209 with a similar problem. I bought it some time ago for use with an Apple II with no problems; when I bought the Osborne, however, I encountered the same horizontal overscanning you did. My dealer also told me that there is no adjustment and sure enough, when I removed the back I saw that there wasn't. I pretty much lived with this situation until recently when I ran across a fellow Sanyo VM4209 owner who happened to have a service manual for same. The manual stated that there are two wires which can be either or both cut to reduce horizontal overscanning. This is technically not an adjustment but a modification but so long as it works I won't quibble. However, in the brief time that I saw the manual, I didn't get it quite nailed as to which wire(s) to cut so I called Sanyo in Compton, CA (Tel. number 213-537-5830) to see if I could get a copy of the service manual. They were very nice and referred me to a parts supplier in Carson, CA by the name of:

TEDCO
1509 E. Delamo
Carson, CA. 90746
Tel number 800-421-5076

I am now in the process of obtaining the service manual from TEDCO so that I can fix my monitor. You might try working with your dealer or directly to Sanyo in Germany (if there is a location there) as I did to obtain a copy of the service manual for your monitor. If you are unsuccessful in finding a source in Germany, then try Sanyo in America. If you obtain a copy of the service manual yourself, and you are not electronics minded, you might work with your dealer or a knowledgeable friend to hopefully fix your monitor. GOOD LUCK to you.

Concerning the letter of Ralph R. Holmes regarding skip over perforation on his MX-100, I don't have a MX-100 but I do have a Gemini-10 which is supposed to be Epson code compatible and so far has proven to be so. I see two problems in your case. The first problem lies in your escape code sequence of ESC N 3 or 1B 4E 33 hex. It should be ESC N ^C or 1B 4E 03 hex. (^C meaning control-C.) There doesn't seem to be a lot of consistency as to when you use the ASCII representation of a number or the actual number in hex. In my case, my manual shows decimal, hex and ASCII so I can usually interpret which is required. This code requires the actual hex number.

The second problem is your use of a page length of 66. Since you are trying to skip over a perforation, it is assumed that you have continuous forms. As you will note on your SuperCalc SETUP menu, for continuous forms you should use a form length of zero. When you enter INSTALLS to change your printer initialization string, you should also change your printer length to zero.

Now when you print your spreadsheet in Supercalc you should not have to enter the SETUP menu at all. Just print from the main display. As a matter of fact, printing from the setup menu will NEGATE the printer initialization string you created in the INSTALLS program. In other words, the printer initialization string created in INSTALLS will not be sent to the printer for this one output; only the manual SETUP codes will be sent, if any. SETUP should only be used if you want to do something different than what you created in INSTALLS (e.g., in your case, printing in 10 pitch instead of compressed mode). I hope this clears up your problem. HAPPY CALCULATING!

Lee Morehead
Florissant, MO

* * * * *

A MODEM WITH NO MESSAGE

Out here in the Boonies it's difficult to participate in the FOG activities, but I enjoy receiving the *FOGHORN*, look to it for suggestions and help, and, as a way of possibly participating, have written the 'attached' article for your consideration. [See ON USING dBASE II, in the ARTICLES section, this issue. David]

I would [have sent] this material via modem, but I can't get hooked up. I bought the MFJ (Starkville, MS) acoustical battery powered modem. It seems to me the Osborne modem defeats the concept of portability. I think the modem functions properly, but since I've never used one, am not absolutely sure it does. My problem is probably in the cable hook-up. I've followed the Osborne diagram and the MFJ schematic, but cannot establish connection before the host carrier signal terminates. The problem may lie in the documentation for software. I have OTERM, MODEM7, MODEM and most public domain programs the Washington DC OUG could give me, but their documentation is written for those who've had experience in using modems, not for a novice.

Milt Shanklin
Columbia, MO

* * * * *

TIPS FOR TYROS

"Tips for Tyros"

by Jim Woolley

When you encounter the message BDOS Error — Bad Sector, you might utter something like OURG. However, in this article OURG refers to the Osborne User's Reference Manual, Rev. 2/82. If you wish to receive full value from your Osborne 1, the best tip I can give is to suggest you read OURG from cover to cover. You need not understand every paragraph, but at least you will get an idea of what's inside. Then, when a question arises, you will know where to look for the answer.

This month's tips include two contributed by readers. If you wish to share an interesting feature of the Osborne 1, send me a note at P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA 94015-0474.

Tip #1: Star Reiersen notes that many are unaware of the use of <ESC> when requesting WordStar to print a file. As described in OURG, p. 94 and p. R-49, printing is initiated by P at the no-file menu or by <CTRL>KP while editing a file. WordStar requests the name of a file to be printed. If you type a filename terminated by <RETURN>, WordStar will ask at least seven more questions. Usually the default response to each of these questions is appropriate, so you must press <RETURN> following each. This procedure may be expedited by using <ESC> rather than <RETURN> to terminate the filename. That is, when prompted for the name of a file to be printed, type the filename, then press <ESC>. The default response to each question will be assumed; in particular, WordStar will assume that your printer is turned on and ready to print. It is interesting to note that WordStar version 3.xx will allow <ESC> in response to any of the seven questions as indication of the default response for the remaining questions. Most of us have version 2.26, however.

OURG apparently does not describe a related WordStar feature discussed at a recent Santa Clara FOG meeting. While a file is being printed, it is possible to continue using WordStar to edit a file or perform certain commands. The usefulness of this mode depends upon your printer; specifically, a printer such as the Epson MX-80 with limited buffer capacity demands so much attention from WordStar, that little time is left for the keyboard operator. If interested, I suggest you experiment with this feature.

Tip #2: Joe Ulmer of Houston has adapted a trick I described incorrectly in the 2/82 issue of *FOGHORN*. The following quick-and-dirty procedure will cause an MBASIC program (MYPROG.BAS in this example) to execute automatically upon cold start (or <RESET> <RETURN>):

- Place MBASIC.COM and MYPROG.BAS on a disk in drive A. Make sure AUTOST.COM is not on the same disk. This disk must be properly SYSGENed as described in Tip #3 below.
- At the A> prompt, type MBASIC<RETURN>.
- After MBASIC's Ok prompt, type the following three com-

mands terminating each with <RETURN>:

```
RESET
NAME "MBASIC.COM" AS "AUTOST.COM"
NAME "MYPROG.BAS" AS "COPYRIGHT-"
```

Quotation marks are required. The underline character between T and (in the last command is used to indicate a space; type a space instead of the underline character.

Now, whenever a cold start (or <RESET> <RETURN>) is performed with this disk in drive A, MBASIC will be loaded and will automatically run the program MYPROG. You may substitute another program name wherever MYPROG appears in this tip.

There is a program in the FOG disk library, AUTOMOD on FOG/UTL.009, which provides a more general way to accomplish automatic execution of selected functions.

Tip #3: I have never been quite satisfied with OURG's explanation of system tracks on a disk and how to initialize them. The first three disk tracks are expected to contain the CP/M operating system. These tracks are loaded (booted) into the computer from drive A when <RETURN> is pressed upon cold start or following a reset. A portion of the system tracks is rebooted from drive A following a warm start initiated by pressing <CTRL>C at the CP/M > prompt or by program action upon termination. A disk which has just been formatted using the F option of COPY has no system tracks. Trying to boot from such a disk will result in a boot error; a warm start reboot will hang the system. There are several ways to initialize the system tracks, including the following:

- Copying a disk which has valid system tracks using the C option of COPY will transfer all tracks including system tracks. (See pp. 37 — 40 of OURG.)
- SETUP (described in OURG, pp. 41 — 45) will permit you to read valid system tracks from one disk, alter them if desired, and write them onto another disk.
- SYSGEN will read valid system tracks from one disk into memory, permitting you to write them onto one or several new disks in turn.

Of these methods, the last is the easiest; however, OURG does not even mention SYSGEN until p. 240, and the only useful explanation is way back on p. R-15. When you get a new box of disks, format each one as described in pp. 35 — 37 of OURG. Then execute SYSGEN to read system tracks from a disk which you know has been properly SETUP with your printer and function key selection. Request SYSGEN to copy these system tracks to each of your newly formatted disks by specifying them as DESTINATION, one after another. That way, you will have a consistent set of disks to work with.

Tip #4: There are some special keys on the Osborne 1 which apparently are not well documented. Others have described them in *FOGHORN*. Jerry Pournelle recently wrote about them in his User's Column of BYTE magazine. I felt sure they were described in OURG, but after searching for 15 minutes, I could not find the appropriate reference. Perhaps it is worth mentioning them here. Try them on your Osborne. The keys to press are in the left column, the result is in the middle column, and an explanation is in the right column:

THIS	PRODUCES	EXPLANATION
<CTRL>.	{	Control-comma produces left brace
<CTRL>.	}	Control-period produces right brace
<CTRL>=	~	Control-equal produces accent grave
<CTRL>/	~	Control-slash produces tilde
<CTRL>?	DEL	Control-question produces delete



(It should be noted that the <CTRL> key must be held down while the other key is pressed; <CTRL> is used like <SHIFT>.) The keys described above produce ASCII characters. Other special keys which you are probably already aware of will be mentioned for completeness:

<CTRL>left-arrow	scrolls screen window left
<CTRL>right-arrow	scrolls screen window right
<CTRL>up-arrow	scrolls screen window up
<CTRL>down-arrow	scrolls screen window down
<CTRL>[	homes screen window
<CTRL>numeric-key	activates programmable functions

Finally, on my Osborne 1 (Rev. 1.4) performing a cold start by pressing <SHIFT>" (double quotation mark) boots the right hand disk as drive A; the left hand disk becomes drive B.

I hope you found something useful in this month's tips.

* * * * *

More (Tips) on WordStar

by Alan H. Nelson

I would like to make a few comments about WordStar, partly in reaction to Paul Pease's "WS Tips & Tricks" in the January '83 Foghorn.

The standard configuration for Osborne owners should be to have an installed WordStar disk in drive A and a working file disk in drive B. Do not call WordStar from drive A; if you have an AUTOST.COM file on drive A which automatically calls WordStar when you boot up with the WordStar disk in A, erase this file. Get into WordStar as follows:

A>D:

B>a:ws

This routine will save time in beginning a WordStar work session. In fact, you should have a function key installed with this routine--this will save you even more time.

Beginners may think that to log a new disk on the B drive from WordStar, it is necessary to log over to A, insert a new disk in B, then log on to B again. Instead, when you are in main menu, insert a new disk in B, then hit L for changing logged drives, then hit B <CR>: you will see from the file menu that you are now logged onto your new disk.

[After inserting the new disk, I type FF. That toggles the file directory OFF and then ON, that is the directory of the old disk OFF and the new disk directory ON. You can proceed to use the new disk any way you like, EXCEPT you can't, immediately, DELETE A FILE with the Y command. For some reason my O1 insists on "protecting me" and calls the new disk RO, Read Only, and issues a BDOS Error — Bad Sector. So FF works, but don't try to erase a file until after you've accessed a file. David]

If you did forget to save before changing disks and crashed with a FATAL ERROR or any other error, be aware that your newly edited file still exists, either on disk or in memory. You can save it, though with some slight effort, with a program like POWER, the CP/M front-end available from COMPUTING! in San Francisco. [Also see Dave Lopes and Brad Baldwin's article, *Saving Your ASCII*, in the *Portable Companion*, April/May 1983. David]

Markers (<K1>, <K2>, etc.) disappear on a ^KD save; but they also change position relative to page beginnings when material is added or deleted, or if a different .lh command is inserted at the beginning of a file: these changes must be anticipated if markers are to be used for indicating the beginnings of pages as formatted by WordStar.

^QQ commands are fully explained in the WordStar manual. If ^QQ is typed, the next command given will be repeated until any key is pressed. Thus ^QQZ repeats the scroll command; ^QQC repeats the screen-at-a-time scroll; ^QQB repeats paragraph reformation (though it will terminate again and again if hyphen help is ON).

One of the best uses for the ^QQ procedure is for making repeated find-and-replace changes within the document but not over the whole document. The G option within ^QA always goes back to the top of the file. But if you've already made selective (Y/N) changes in the first half of a document, there's no need to go through these again. Go to your new starting place, give a regular ^QA command for the next occurrence of the selected feature, and make the change. Then go ^QQL; this will repeat the find-and-replace sequence until you stop it by hitting any key. (If you are currently faced with a (Y/N) choice and wish to stop the function, hit any key (except Y) twice in quick succession.

Note that I said any key. The space bar will stop a ^QQ function, but so will any other key. Similarly, any key (not just ^S) will stop the screen display of global ^QA find-and-replace changes for lightning-quick, behind the scenes action. Even more worthwhile to know is that any key (not just N) will stipulate NO for a (Y/N) option: I find it much easier to do a two-fingered selection, hitting Y for YES and U for NO.

Final tip: a dot (or period) at the beginning of a line will be interpreted as some kind of dot command by WordStar, and will cause the line not to be printed. If you want to put a period in the first column of your print-out, precede it by a space and a ^H (type ^PH).

In most of my examples, I have represented control commands and other commands as upper-case letters. It is most important to realize that these should actually be typed lower case for speed!

* * * * *

FOG NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

We are considering legal action against the printer who was paid for the cards and who promised delivery last January. In the meantime, if anyone knows of a printer who will produced breakaway cards as part of an oversized postcard, either let Gale Rhoades (415-756-0821) know immediately or have the printer contact her for further details. Remember that we need the forms perforated for use with a printer.

In the interim, use the address label from a recent FOGHORN as identification to prove that you are FOG member.

ARTICLES

ON USING dBASE II

by Milt Shanklin

Generally, it is more convenient to use dBASE II with dBASE in the 'A' drive and the various dBASE generated programs in the 'B' drive. There was a real neat article in the *Portable Companion*, October/November issue, by Willis Grant that showed how to more easily boot dBASE and wind up raring to go on the 'B' drive.

What follows is an attempt to simplify that approach and make dBASE even more friendly. To start with use a modification of Mr. Grant's program, IT.

First thing to do is boot dBASE in the 'A' drive. When asked for the date, hit <CR> and when the prompt appears type in <CREATE>. The name of the file to create is DAT and the one and only field is called DA, is character in type, and uses 8 spaces. When the second field is presented, type <CR>, and when asked if you want to enter data now, put in the current date. Now you have created the file required by the program IT to handle the current date.

Next type in **MODIFY COMMAND IT** <CR>. The words NEW FILE will flash on the screen and then you are presented with a fresh screen on which to write your command program, IT, as follows:

```
*IT SETS UP dBASE FOR B: DISK OPERATION
```

```
SET TALK OFF
```

```
ERASE
```

```
USE DAT
```

```
STORE DA TO DAX
```

```
5,5 SAY 'Enter DATE in form of MM/DD/YY ';
```

```
GET DAX PICTURE 'XX/XX/XX'
```

```
READ
```

```
SET DATE TO &DAX
```

```
REPLACE DA WITH DAX
```

```
USE
```

```
SET DEFAULT TO B
```

```
DO DISKMEN
```

```
^W
```

The last step, ^W, saves your command program as IT.CMD on the 'A' disk. Now, when IT is run, the last date used appears on the screen. All we need to do is correct to current date and press <CR> and IT sets default to 'B' and instructs dBASE to run a COMMAND file named DISKMEN on the 'B' disk. More about DISKMEN later. For now, lets make IT run with a cold boot.

Next, as Ashton-Tate suggest, we will rename dBASE II to DO. Type **QUIT** <CR> to quit dBASE and, when the CP/M prompt appears, type **REN DO.COM=DBASE.COM**. Next, remove the DBASE (DO) disk from the 'A' drive and place it in the 'B' drive. Put your CP/M Utility disk containing DDT in the 'A' drive, boot, and type:

```
DDT B: AUTOST.COM
```

Some numbers will appear, then a prompt, and you type:

```
S0168 (CR)
```

and 0168 44 will appear. 44 is hex for D of DBASE. Hit <CR> and 0169 42 will appear. 42 is hex for B of DBASE, and we want to change it to 0 of DO. So type in 4F <CR> to replace 'B' with '0'. Similarly at 016A 41 type 20, at 016B 53 type 49 and at

016C 45 type 54. You have now replaced DBASE with DO IT in AUTOST.COM. At 016D 00 type a period, (.) <CR>, and then a ^C to return to CP/M. When you get the A> prompt, type:

```
SAVE 10 B: AUTOST.COM
```

to save your changes. Now put your altered disk back in the 'A' drive, a copy of the disk entitled EXAMPLES that came with dBASE in the 'B' drive, and press **RESET** and <CR> to cold boot your disk. If all has gone well, after the whirring and clacking, you should see on an otherwise blank screen:

```
Enter DATE in form of MM/DD/YY :04/14/83:
```

with the cursor positioned under the '0'. If changes are needed, make them; otherwise, hit <CR>. You should see:

```
COMMAND FILE CANNOT BE FOUND
```

```
DO CANCELED
```

Remember, IT set default to 'B' and told dBASE to execute DISKMEN in its last two steps. Well, you're ready to create the asked for command program now.

Two of the programs on EXAMPLES seemed to me to be worth modifying and using so I'll give an example DISKMEN program for the master menu programs to control a check book and to calculate a list of periodic dates that recur at fixed intervals (such as paydays). The menu command programs are called, respectively, XMEN and DATER. Here, then, is my DISKMEN for some of the material on EXAMPLES

Type:

```
MODIFY COMMAND DISKMEN (CR)
```

```
ERASE
```

```
SET TALK OFF
```

```
DO WHILE T
```

```
?
```

```
?
```

```
?
```

```
? ' DEFAULT is now set to B'
```

```
?
```

```
?
```

```
? ' Menu of Master Command Programs:'
```

```
?
```

```
?
```

```
? ' 0 - Exit to dBASE'
```

```
? ' 1 - Check Book'
```

```
? ' 2 - List Periodic Dates'
```

```
?
```

```
? ' Enter Choice'
```

```
WAIT TO CHOICE
```

```
DO CASE
```

```
CASE CHOICE='0'
```

```
SET TALK ON
```

```
CANCEL
```

```
CASE CHOICE='1'
```

```
DO XMEN
```

```
CASE CHOICE='2'
```

```
DO DATER
```

```
OTHERWISE
```

```
? ' Invalid Entry. Re-Enter.'
```

```
ENDCASE
```

```
ENDDO
```

```
^W
```

That's all there is to it. Now, whenever you cold boot dBASE II in 'A' drive with your disk of dBASE programs in 'B', all that stands



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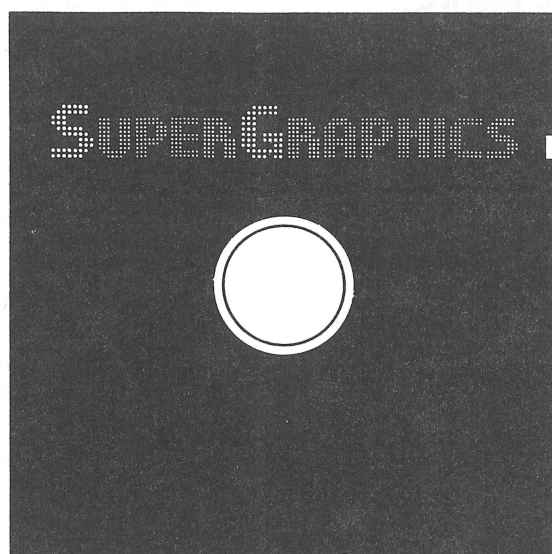
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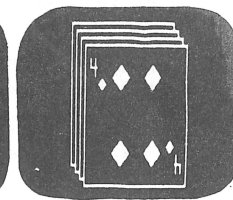
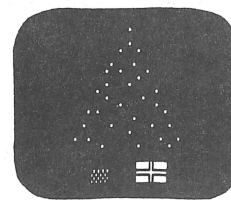
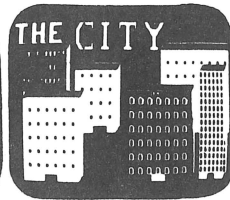
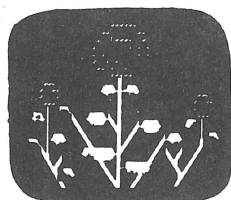
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between you and a menu of 'B' disk programs is one carriage return. Naturally, each 'B' disk will require its own DISKMENU, but using the MODIFY COMMAND feature of dBASE they are both easy to create and to modify when adding new master command programs as your disk is filled.

If you don't want all of the 'user friendliness' supplied by using 'B' drive DISKMENU.COM, you can replace the instruction **DO DISKMENU** in the IT.COMD program with **LIST FILES LIKE *.*** to present a menu of all of the files on 'B' disk. Lots of modifications are possible. I hope you find this approach to speeding up the use of dBASE as convenient as I have.

* * * * *

MBASIC VS. dBASE II — PART II THE ADVANTAGES OF MBASIC

by Kevin Markey

You've finally cracked the binding on the dBASE II manual. You've even set up that mailing list and a simple home accounting package. By now, you think that dBASE is so great that you will never return to MBASIC. Right?

Not quite.

In the first installment in this series, I discussed the advantages of using dBASE and programming in dBASE. This month, I will review those circumstances which require the use of MBASIC or some other general programming language, such as PASCAL or (Heaven forbid!) FORTRAN.

First, let me summarize the advantages of using dBASE:

1. Programming is simpler. You may use structured programming and can forget statement numbers.
2. Many complicated data file procedures may be performed with a single command: sorting data, indexing it, editing files, combining related data, appending data, etc.
3. Input and output functions are rich and diverse.

Despite all of these marvels, you will still need BASIC or a similar general programming language to perform several functions not possible, time consuming, inconvenient or downright difficult in dBASE. Examples of things you do not want to do with dBASE include using more than two files simultaneously, reading foreign data files written in binary data formats, using arrays, using scientific functions, or optimizing disk storage or program execution time.

Let's look at each of these in greater detail.

Limits on Number of Open Files

In dBASE you may only keep two files open at one time. This is helpful in making complex data transfers between the two files, and usually two is the maximum you will ever need. However, you may never keep more than two files open — one "primary" database and one "secondary" database is the maximum. In MBASIC, you may juggle data among many files simultaneously. This is not a serious dBASE limitation, unless you have a premium on program execution time. Each time you close one file and open another, it takes time. Also, you lose your place in the closed file unless you save the location (such as record number) with a memory variable.

Reading Data From a Foreign File

Using the "SDF" option in copying or appending data in dBASE, you can read and write data in some foreign file formats such as MAILMERGE and MBASIC sequential access files (delimited with

commas) or to and from ASCII files where records are delimited with a carriage return/line feed pair. However, binary coded data cannot be read by dBASE. Examples of this are random access files written using a general programming language which contain numerical or logical data or packed arrays of any sort.

It is possible to use BASIC or PASCAL to convert old binary files to ASCII so that dBASE may use them. The steps are: (1) convert numerical data into ASCII format (e.g., using STR\$ function in MBASIC); (2) convert other binary data into an ASCII representation; (3) convert logical values into "T" or "F"; (4) write all the converted fields to a **random access file, ending each record with a carriage return/line feed pair (i.e., "ODh,0Ah"); (5) check the result using TYPE (the field structure must be identical for each record); (6) **CREATE** a dBASE file with the same field structure as the ASCII file; and (7) **APPEND SDF** from the ASCII file. Then check the results and retry if necessary.

Arrays Don't Exist in dBASE

They don't, that is, unless you use your imagination. Indeed, you can think of a file as possibly being a 32 X Infinity array. You can also set up some memory variables such as **NAME1**, **NAME2**, **NAME3**, etc., to act as an informal array. Yet, any solution to mitigate this weakness in dBASE will be cumbersome. If you need an array in memory, use MBASIC.

Scientific and Mathematical Functions

dBASE is missing several important scientific and mathematical functions: exponentiation, logarithms, powers, modular division, trigonometric functions, and square roots. Also, creating a simple user-defined arithmetic function is not simple. If you have no other choice, you may write a subroutine command file to compute powers and logs and exponents. However, these functions will be extremely slow. Again, if time is at a premium, use MBASIC or PASCAL or another general programming language with more speedy library functions.

Optimizing Execution Time and Storage

The Osborne's biggest weakness is disk storage. The file structure in dBASE may create serious disadvantages. Each field and record takes up the same amount of space regardless of the amount of information it contains. It is possible, but time consuming, to squeeze the information to overcome this problem. Other database systems or programs of your own design using a general programming language may overcome these difficulties.

Number crunching is not dBASE's strength. Any arithmetic or string functions take time. Repetitive tasks take longer, since not only must dBASE perform the operation, but everytime it repeats the operation, dBASE must read the instructions from the command file.

Conclusions

There are ways to improve dBASE's performance, but remember that there will always be tradeoffs. In return for the ease of programming and for the complex functions of sorting, indexing, input and output which dBASE offers, you must sacrifice fast program execution and valuable disk storage.

For most applications, however, dBASE offers an exceptional compromise among ease of use, performance and versatility.

* * * * *

HARDWARE REVIEWS

OSBAUD

by Doug Hurst

I truly hope I'm the first to get my review in on this one. And let me start by saying this is by far the most professional, complete and, at least to me, useful product I have yet seen in the O1 second market.

OSBAUD is a purely hardware device that connects to the O1 motherboard near the RS-232 (Serial) port and allows the O1 to communicate serially at 50-19200 baud with any peripheral device that can match it.

Certainly the nicest and most important aspect of OSBAUD is that it works exactly as advertised. Second most important is that the instructions are complete and easily understood (for both the old, brown/black and the blue/gray case machines) and thirdly, they even give you the allen wrench required to remove the brightness and contrast knobs on the front panel.

The kit consists of a small (2"x4") printed circuit board with a couple of chips and a dip switch on it, supported by four conductor legs. It also contains a reference plate for the switch settings required to obtain the desired baud rates. And, as stated previous, the handy allen wrench.

The installation is not a simple plug-in affair, but there is nothing extremely difficult about it. If you have a deathly fear of going inside your O1, then get someone who is technically oriented to perform the modification for you. Regardless of who does the dirty deed, they will have to know a bit about soldering. There is a requirement to solder the four legs of the OSBAUD circuit board to the 6850 serial IO control chip. One of the legs is a little hard to reach so the skinniest, lowest wattage soldering iron you can find is recommended. Incidentally, the legs are also part of the circuitry and the power to and output from the OSBAUD board runs through them.

There is not really too much else to say about this little gem. About 8 months ago, I purchased and built a Heath H-19 terminal. I intended to use it to get an 80 column display with WordStar until 80+ arrived. I knew how to manipulate the 6850 control byte to get 300/1200/19200 baud, but 19200 didn't work and 1200 was far too slow for anything useful. With OSBAUD, I am now happily typing away on this review at 19200 baud and enjoying every minute of it.

Again, It's so refreshing to buy something that meets all your expectations, quite unlike my OSMOSIS I double density modification, which is the biggest fiasco going, totally useless and will be the subject of a review as soon as I can compile and submit it. I have given Ian Kitching of OSMOSIS one more week to answer my critical questions as to what, if anything, he intends to do about the product to improve it, or he becomes fair game.

[I have to reserve my recommendation of this OSBAUD modification unless your O1 has exceeded the warranty period or unless you can get your dealer to install it and agree to continue to honor your warranty.
Doug]

OSMOS I DOUBLE DENSITY

by D. M. Hurst

I am truly saddened to have to write this review. I guess, however, anytime you go out on a limb, you should expect to have it sawed off behind you.

I'm sure you've seen the ads for OSMOS I from OSMOSIS in both *FOGHORN* and the *Portable Companion*. "\$195. Install it yourself and save \$100 over Osborne's price." Actually, it costs \$10 more than Osborne's and you save the installation fee.

So, what do you get for your \$195? You get hardware, firmware and software. The hardware consists of an add-on controller board that fits to the rear and under the B drive. The installation is very easy. You simply remove the data cable for the drives, plug in the new board in its place, then plug the cable back into the new board. Then there are two more cables coming off the new board that plug into pins on the motherboard previously connected with jumpers. Firmware consists of a new ROM chip, 1.43, to be exact. At this point, things were going so well that I was ecstatic. However, when I reassembled the case and turned to the software, the situation deteriorated rapidly.

The modification comes with a disk which, by use of CP/M's SUBMIT and XSUB facilities, allows you to create a "Double Density System Master" diskette. This disk is formatted in single density and must always remain single density and must be booted up from every cold start. **You read right, you cannot boot straight to a double density formatted diskette.** The reason given for this is the varying quality of the drives in the earlier Osbornes do not allow this luxury.

NOTE: It should be pointed out that my pre-purchase literature stated that all problems of the varying quality drives had been compensated for by the hardware/software. This fallacy will show itself later in this review also.

Here's the ritual. Power down (not just <RESET> then back up, insert the DD Master, hit <RETURN>, at the A> prompt type **DD14 <RETURN>**, remove the DD Master, insert a DD formatted application diskette, hit ^C, load the application program. That's the worst of it but not the end. If you hit the reset button after you have warm booted (^C) with a DD formatted diskette, you will get a BOOT ERROR upon trying to boot up the DD Master from a cold start. When this occurs, there is no choice but to power down, wait a few seconds, then power up and go through the boot routine.

Your COPY program is useless once you've installed OSMOS I 1.43 ROM, so you have to use PIP for all copying routines. Again be prepared for frustration. To PIP SD to DD, you must have the DD Master disk in drive A and, of course, a DD formatted disk in drive B. To PIP DD to DD (like you would have to do to make a backup copy) you have to have a DD formatted disk in drive A (with PIP on it) and a DD formatted disk in drive B. Even though you have initiated DD with DD14 on the DD Master, it will not PIP DD to DD. This is because of the SYSTEM which is written to the tracks of DD formatted disks using SYSGEN is not a complete SYSTEM. In fact attempting to dump these tracks with DU-V77.COM results in READ FAILED indications and jibberish in the addresses. Does all this sound confusing?? It is as confusing to perform as it is explain. But, the worst is yet to come.

After settling down from all my initial frustration, I tried to convince myself that the increased storage capacity would more than make up for a few extra gyrations at boot up time. I seldom use a cold boot after the first time anyway unless the terminal locks up on me. Anyway, I started trying to make some "super" disks. You



know, WordStar, dBASE II and MBASIC on the same disk. WordStar, MBASIC and SuperCalc on another. WordStar and my spelling checker on another. I quickly found that I was risking catastrophe at anything over 150K. You guessed it, BDOS ERROR bad sector on X:. But I thought this fantastic hardware/software was supposed to compensate for varying quality of drives? The way the errors appear, I'm sure that the problem is what is called "ghosting". When the operating system attempts to write on the inner tracks. Reads, result in parity errors. Writes, cannot be verified because one track and part of another are being read simultaneously. I can't absolutely verify that this is what's happening, but I feel certain enough to suspect it. Oh, the disk blocks continue to be saved in 2K increments, not 1K as with Osborne DD (because the bytes per sector arrangement has not changed). Now I must admit that my O1 has been used every day since I purchased it well over a year ago. A critical alignment of my drives might very well solve the problem of ghosting. But again, the literature promised this would be compensated for.

I wrote OSMOSIS, told them of the problems I was experiencing, and gave them three weeks to inform me what they intended to do to remedy them. I received no response.

I did receive a promised disk which allows you to read write and format to about 10 other CP/M disk formats. This program has worked fine, but is also cumbersome to use, and doesn't answer the "hard" questions as to the DD program's shortcomings.

One very small consolation to this is that except for the inability to use the COPY utility, you will continue to be able to operate in SD just as if no modification had taken place. This plus the multiformating capability is worth something I guess.

Well, that's it. To me, unless OSMOSIS comes up with some fix, the product, DD that is, is totally UNSATISFACTORY, and I cannot recommend it to any FOG member in good conscience. Incidentally, their recordkeeping procedures aren't too good either. I called about my order after three weeks, and was told they had not received it. I called Security Pacific Bank to see if the money order had been cashed. It had. I called back and informed OSMOSIS of this and they said they would look into it and get back to me within the hour. They didn't.

I called them back the next day and was told they had found my order and it would go out the same day. It arrived UPS a week later. I am as disappointed with OSMOSIS as I was thrilled with OSBAUD. Now, all I have to do is beg a ROM 1.3 from somebody so I can go back do normal SD and start over.

* * * * *

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(415) 490-3441
Telex: 17-1618 Attn: TNT

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Now give your Osborne new speed and extended storage capacity

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Winchester hard disk system by Trantor

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You can also get our accounting and inventory software both for only \$150

With your order for any Trantor hard disk.

FREE VALUABLE BONUS GIFT IF YOU ACT NOW!

Dear Osborne Owner,

Here's your chance to substantially upgrade your Osborne, increase your productivity, get 2 valuable software packages, and save up to \$1,040! But you've got to act fast.

Now you can expand the capability of your Osborne computer with a high-speed, mass-storage hard disk system -- at a big savings. The

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Just a little more on the disappointments I have with



know, WordStar, dBASE II and MBASIC on the same WordStar, MBASIC and SuperCalc on another. WordStar spelling checker on another. I quickly found that I was in a catastrophe at anything over 150K. You guessed it, BD1 bad sector on X:. But I thought this fantastic hardware was supposed to compensate for varying quality of drive way the errors appear, I'm sure that the problem is what "ghosting". When the operating system attempts to write inner tracks. Reads, result in parity errors. Writes, cancelled because one track and part of another are being read simultaneously. I can't absolutely verify that this is what's happening. I feel certain enough to suspect it. Oh, the disk blocks can be saved in 2K increments, not 1K as with Osborne DC (the bytes per sector arrangement has not changed). I admit that my O1 has been used every day since I purchased over a year ago. A critical alignment of my drives might solve the problem of ghosting. But again, the literature says this would be compensated for.

I wrote OSMOSIS, told them of the problems I was experiencing and gave them three weeks to inform me what they intended to remedy them. I received no response.

I did receive a promised disk which allows you to reformat to about 10 other CP/M disk formats. This program worked fine, but is also cumbersome to use, and does not answer the "hard" questions as to the DD program's shortcomings.

One very small consolation to this is that except for the need to use the COPY utility, you will continue to be able to operate just as if no modification had taken place. This multifformatting capability is worth something I guess.

Well, that's it. To me, unless OSMOSIS comes up with a better product, DD that is, is totally UNSATISFACTORY, and I cannot recommend it to any FOG member in good conscience. Their recordkeeping procedures aren't too good either about my order after three weeks, and was told they would have received it. I called Security Pacific Bank to see if the money had been cashed. It had. I called back and informed them of this and they said they would look into it and get back to me the hour. They didn't.

I called them back the next day and was told they had my order and it would go out the same day. It arrived UPS. I am as disappointed with OSMOSIS as I was thrilled with it. Now, all I have to do is beg a ROM 1.3 from somebody who can back do normal SD and start over.

* * * * *

UPGRADE YOUR OSBORNE

with a new high-speed, high-capacity TRANTOR hard disk system

Choose from 3 popular models: 5 Mbyte, 10 Mbyte, 15 Mbyte.

Hard disk gives you more

You're a mover. You know how to invest your time, your talent, and your money. That's why you own a personal business computer. Now you can enhance your investment by upgrading your computer with a Trantor. Trantor Systems' Winchester hard disk drive economically transforms your Osborne into a far more sophisticated computer—one with the storage, speed, convenience and flexibility of a much more expensive system.

You can choose from three powerful models, 5, 10, and 15 megabytes, to get more of what you bought your computer for:

MORE STORAGE. Your computer will be required to perform an increasing variety of functions in today's automated office. By expanding your Osborne's current capability, a Trantor hard disk system will allow you to use your computer to work faster and easier, thereby increasing **PRODUCTIVITY** in your office.

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Look at the benefits

- 3 to 5 times faster access to programs and records.
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- Quicker, easier, simpler computer operation.
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- * Very low cost per megabyte of storage memory.
- * Extremely high reliability.
- * No maintenance required.
- * Manufactured by Trantor, the world's leader in hard disks for Osbornes.
- * Sold and supported by Rocky Mountain Software Systems, The largest Trantor dealer in the United States.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE SYSTEMS
Business Microcomputers and Software

MOVE UP TO HARD DISK

If you're a businessperson with frequent and continuous computer use you should know about the convenience and benefits of a Winchester hard disk. Hard disks are the only logical, proven, and truly cost-effective way to add large volumes of mass storage capacity to any type of computer system (whether micro, mini or main frame). Let me tell you the facts.

Instead of switching from floppy to floppy you can store and rapidly access all of your programs, records, and documents conveniently in one secure place. For example, you can quickly switch from, say composing a customer letter (Word Processing), to looking up his past due balance (Accounts Receivable), to reviewing stock-on-hand quantities for his order (Inventory), all in seconds and all without changing diskettes! You just call up the program on the keyboard. That's all there is to it. The benefits are tremendous.

We recommend a hard disk system for any of these serious business applications: 1) large mailing lists, 2) data base management, 3) inventory records, 4) word processing, 5) storing accounting records, or 6) financial planning.

These vital business functions often generate files that are too large for 5 1/4 inch floppy disks. If your business requires rapid interactive query such as frequent customers inquiries and regular report printouts you'll need this superfast disk access. It can cut your processing time up to 50 percent! That means your new Trantor hard disk can pay for itself in terms of improved performance within a few months.

INSTANTLY INCREASE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY

Did you know that in most business applications, the speed of the disk subsystem is the limiting factor for overall computer speed? That's why a Winchester hard disk is actually a productivity tool. Its price/performance is nothing less than remarkable! Adding a hard disk to your Osborne will increase your efficiency and personal productivity by eliminating the frustration of waiting to change disks and waiting for slow floppy data searches.

And adding a hard disk requires absolutely no change in any of your software or operations. You just take the hard disk out of the shipping carton, plug it into your IEEE port with the cable supplied, run a **very simple installation** procedure, and you're operational! Its that easy.

LOOK AT THESE SAVINGS

You can save \$500 on any Trantor hard disk model until June 30, 1983. (The 10 Megabyte is our best-selling model.)

<u>Model</u>	<u>Regular Price</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>	<u>Savings</u>
5 Megabyte.....	\$2,495.....	\$1,995.....	\$500
10 Megabyte.....	3,095.....	2,495.....	500
15 Megabyte.....	3,595.....	2,995.....	500

THE BEST DEAL WE HAVE EVER OFFERED

As an added incentive we'll include both our Desktop Accountant and our Desktop Inventory Manager, worth \$690.00, for only \$150, a savings of \$540!! That's a total of 78% off the regular price! But only with your order for any Trantor hard disk. And as a special service we will format your hard disk for you and install the accounting and inventory programs on the hard disk. So the whole system will be ready-to-run upon arrival. That's a terrific deal for only \$150.00! Total savings for your new hard disk system and 2 software packages amounts to \$1,040!!

Plus, as a bonus for ordering now, we'll give you a free gift set of 5 color-coded diskette library storage cases complete with color-coded labels. That's a \$19.95 retail value, and its yours free if you order any hard disk system by June 30th.

So act now. Select either a 5 mb, 10 mb, or 15mb hard disk. Estimate your future growth requirements. Then order the system that will accommodate your expansion for years to come. (Hint: because computers are relatively new, most people under- estimate their mass storage needs).

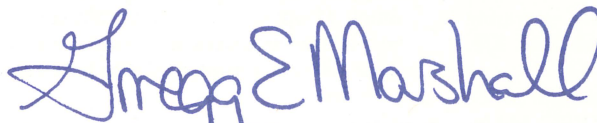
If you haven't yet ordered an accounting or inventory system, you can get both for only \$150 with your order for a hard disk system. That's one heck of a deal. If you already have our Desktop Accountant system, then we'll upgrade you to the hard disk version and give you Desktop Inventory Manager - free!

WE'RE THE LARGEST --- AND THE BEST

As the largest and most experienced Trantor dealer in the United States we are prepared to answer any kind of hard disk question you have before placing your order. Please call us anytime Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Pacific Time at (415) 680-8378. Offer absolutely ends on June 30, 1983. Your order must be in our office by 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) to qualify.

Order yours today by phone or mail.

Yours for better computing,



Gregg Marshall, President
Rocky Mountain Software Systems

P.S. To receive your free bonus gift and software discounts you must use these special order numbers for this sale:

Model TSL-5	5 mb Hard Disk	Order #	<u>MM1TSL5</u>
Model TSL-10	10 mb Hard Disk	Order #	<u>MM1TSL10</u>
Model TSL-15	15 mb Hard Disk	Order #	<u>MM1TSL15</u>

Call us about special pricing on Trantor's
NEW Web — up to 4 Osbornes connected
to a single hard disk network. ~~IBM~~

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MORE SPEED. You're always striving to improve your efficiency. After all, time is money. With Trantor operating your Osborne will be appreciably faster.

MORE CONVENIENCE. With a Trantor system the margin for error declines. There's no more shuffling through piles of disks, hunting for lost or damaged ones. The 5, 10, and 15 megabyte systems allow you to do away with 50, 100, or 150 floppies. In other words, *one* system at your fingertips—no more floppy mess!

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—Thom Hogan
Portable Companion
Feb./March 1983

CHECK THESE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

HARDWARE—features reliable 5¼" rigid disk Winchester technology with automatic burst error detection up to 11 bits. Protected by a .03 micron filter for cleanest operating environment for long disk and head life.

SOFTWARE—Comes complete with BIOS, ARKIVE™ back-up utility, DISK MANAGER™ utility, head positioning utility, and much much more!

- Back-up function is included free, and uses one or more floppy diskettes to archive and restore hard disk files. Disks are software coded and cannot accidentally be restored out of order.
- Compatible with existing software. No reprogramming required.
- Drive is divided into two logical drives labeled A & B. The floppy drives are labeled C & D. Re-assignment utility is included to re-label the drives.
- Positioning utility moves the head to beyond the inner cylinder to protect the hard disk during shipping or moving.

INSTALLATION—Comes ready-to-use with disk, cable, user software, and utilities. Plugs into the Osborne IEEE 488 port, requires simple 15 minute one-time installation. (The port is used as a parallel port and not as an IEEE 488 bus.) Apple II/CPM host adapter provided.

SPEED—3 to 5 times increased system performance.

RELIABILITY—

- Mean Time Between Failure: 8000 hours continuous operation
- Preventive Maintenance: NONE

ENVIRONMENTAL—

- Ambient operating Temperature: 40°F to 115°F (4° to 46°C)
- Humidity: 8% to 80% non-condensing

POWER REQUIREMENTS—

- Starting 130 Watts Max.
- Operating 80 Watts Max.

DIMENSIONS—5½" × 13" × 14"
(14cm × 33cm × 35.5cm)

WEIGHT—19 lbs. (8.6 kg.)

CAPACITY (formatted)	TSL-5	TSL-10	TSL-15
Megabytes	5.0	10.0	15.0
Disks	1	2	2
Heads	2	4	4

WARRANTY and SERVICE

Your reliable TRANTOR hard disk system is protected by a full 120 day warranty from failures due to defects in material or workmanship. Warranty extension beyond 120 days is also available at a reasonable price.

Service is available through an expanding network of dealerships nationwide, and TRANTOR factory.

YOUR DEALER

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SOFTWARE REVIEWS

CHARTECH

by Jeff Lund, Davis Osborne Group

Many of you may have noticed the advertisements for CHARTECH by Techware in the *FOGHORN*. Recently I was able to obtain a copy for review purposes; what follows are my impressions of it.

For those people who are not aware of CHARTECH and what it does, it is billed as an aid to "Technical Word Processing". Basically, it allows for the insertion [from within WordStar] of special technical symbols into a printed document. For example, if you enter $\wedge$ PE s in the document a lower case Greek alpha appears in its place when the document is printed. Ninety-four special characters are supplied, including the upper and lower case Greek alphabet, math symbols (such as integrals, summations, and radicals) along with other interesting characters. Through the use of subscripts and superscripts, many large complex characters can be formed. CHARTECH works with the Epson MX-80 or MX-100 with Grafrax 80 or Grafrax Plus, Okidata Microliner 84, Itoh ProWriter, and with the NEC 8023 printers. (NOTE: I did this review with an Epson MX-80 with Grafrax Plus, I assume it works similarly for the other printers.)

The first thing to do after purchasing CHARTECH is to add it to a copy of WordStar. CHARTECH's ad boasts of "automatic installation by SUBMIT files — convenient patches in WordStar made automatically." I agree that they used SUBMIT files to install their program, but the patches made to WordStar were hardly what I considered convenient. A standard CHARTECH installation gives you the following as the default WordStar package:

- Hyphen help off
- Screen width 120
- Paper out sensor ignored
- Double spacing
- Emphasized type
- Low help level (1)
- Short help message (1)
- Right justification off
- Page numbering off

Out of all these features, there were very few that I had any desire for (or had not already installed myself), the others were a nuisance — they were things I did NOT want. I had to go into the SUBMIT file and remove them, a relatively easy task, but it would have been a whole lot easier if the designers of CHARTECH had let people pick their own default settings.

The next step in the installation process is to use a SUBMIT file to make the patches that enable the special printing features of the Epson. The standard CHARTECH features and the ones I wanted were again slightly different. After two frustrating (but educational) hours the "automatic" installation was complete.

Just a little more on the disappointments I have with

CHARTECH, and then on to its good points (yes, I do like some things!!) CHARTECH comes with a built in feature for detecting subscripting and superscripting errors. It works by dimming the text on the screen between matched pairs of $\wedge$ PT s and $\wedge$ PV s. You can check for errors by making sure that the dimmed text should be dimmed. A nice feature. It worked so-so for a while (sometimes the whole document went dim), and then suddenly the whole feature disappeared. I didn't know if I destroyed it, so I tried re-installing CHARTECH from scratch several times. The dimming would not return.

The second special feature of CHARTECH controls how the special print characters appear on the screen. There are three options 1) All control characters are visible, and those following a $\wedge$ PE are underlined; 2) All control characters are hidden; 3) Only $\wedge$ PE s are hidden, special characters are underlined, and all other control characters are visible. Like the dimming, this feature worked pretty well for a while, but then it became temperamental and disappeared, leaving me in condition one, forever. CHARTECH, however, is not bought for its special dimming and control displays, it is bought for the characters it can print. This is one area where I was definitely not let down. The print quality of CHARTECH's symbols is beautiful. They are well formed and the selection is very good. One bad thing is when special characters print, they look like emphasized print (quite dark). If you use the standard CHARTECH installation package that would be no problem, since all your printing would be done in emphasized type. But, since I chose to remove this feature, CHARTECH's symbols have a tendency to stick out on the page (I bet they could be changed to regular emphasis by the manufacturer if desired).

Not only are the characters nice to look at, but they are also easy to enter in to a document. Single characters are entered just like any other character except that they are preceded by a $\wedge$ PE. Large mathematical expressions are a little more difficult, but the hints given in CHARTECH's instructions really make it easy. By putting the printer into quarter line spacing (I'll tell you how in a bit), it is then possible to type the equation on the screen as you want it to appear on the printer. Let me show you. The integral from alpha to beta of D over C squared plus X squared dx looks like this on the screen with nothing hidden:

$$\int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{D}{C^2 + X^2} dx$$

And looks like this with everything hidden:

$$\int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{D}{C^2 + X^2} dx$$

And looks great when printed. By putting the combination $\wedge$ PE on a special function key it is really easy to build up equations even more complicated than this one.

As I previously mentioned, it is possible to put the printer into quarter line spacing by using one of the final two features that CHARTECH offers. Anywhere a \ appears in the text an ASCII escape is sent to the printer. This feature enables you to make the Epson do everything you could ever want it to do and more. If two \ s appear in a row, one is printed and no escape is sent.

The last special feature is multiple line striking. If an $\wedge$ is placed in an otherwise empty line (where n is a number from 2 to 9) all text until an $\wedge$ (or $\wedge$ 0) is encountered will be overstruck n times.

Should the symbols already provided not suit your needs, CHARTECH also includes three CBASIC programs that allow you



to create your own. The programs are easy to use. You simply enter the pattern you want the character to look like, and the program generates the necessary code. There is one limitation though. CHARTECH can only support 94 characters at a time (no more keys!), so if you want to put in one of your own you have to throw out one of theirs. In fact, the package comes with 15 other characters that, because of lack of space, weren't included. If you like any of them better than the standard ones they can be substituted as well.

One final, totally unrelated, program that comes with CHARTECH allows for screen detection of parentheses errors. This feature has to be put on its own copy of WordStar and is really only of use to programmers. The idea is similar to the scheme used to detect subscripts and superscript errors. Text between unmatched parentheses is dimmed. In addition when you type in ((())) it appears on the screen as ([]), which makes it much easier to see what goes with what.

The final question though is whether CHARTECH is worth \$65 or not. Those two special features did disappear on me, maybe it was my fault and maybe not, but if it was my fault, it sure was easy to do. The parentheses program works, and really is a big help if you're too lazy to count them by hand. But, what is CHARTECH? It is a program for printing special characters, and this is what it does well. If you have a need for the Greek alphabet or mathematical and other miscellaneous symbols, then this would be a good investment. Maybe newer versions will have all the bugs worked out of them.

* * * * *

RESPONSE CHARTECH REVIEW

-- COMMENTS FROM TECHWARE --

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the review of CHARTECH. Some of the aspects that the reviewer did not care for were changed in Release 1.2, which came out in February. The installation procedure is now simplified, and it is easier to set up the user's preferred defaults. We will also add a draft-quality Greek/math character set to the package.

I regret that there was difficulty with the dimming of matter in superscripts and subscripts, and with the underlining of special characters. The different displays are cycled with the "OD" command. We have seen the dimming get out of step, but previously, exiting and restarting have cured the problem. The early version did not respond the same to "OD", "O^D", and "Od". We are always ready to help customers obtain the performance we promise; just call (503) 343-0566.

Joel McClure
TECHWARE

* * * * *

POWER!

by Alan H. Nelson

[The review of POWER in the March 1983 issue of *FOGHORN* was originally written for another journal; I offer the following comments specifically for Osborne 1 owners.]

CP/M is a highly versatile microcomputer operating system, but not one without its faults or its critics. Perhaps the most common criticism concerns its awkward syntax and the small number of utilities imbedded in its regular command form. As an example of poor syntax, consider a command like **REName** :

```
ren newfile=oldfile
```

The word order is entirely contrary to normal English syntax, which should demand something like:

```
ren oldfile > newfile
```

As an example of the scarcity of good utilities, consider the copying command. Instead of including a copy command in the primary utility, where it should be, CP/M has a separate utility, PIP, with an even more horrid syntax, e.g.:

```
*b:newfile=a:oldfile
```

*

How many times haven't we all mistyped the filenames or got the syntax wrong; then, even when PIP functions, all we get for our pains is a star (for effort??)

CP/M needs help, and the program called POWER! offers practically all the help possible or necessary. POWER (I'll leave off the exclamation mark for the balance of this review) is essentially a collection of some 50 utilities with internal error-trapping and I/O routines. Once it is invoked, POWER resides entirely in memory, where it can survive without the necessity to access a disk for secondary elements of its program. The principal benefit of this arrangement is that with POWER, all drives are available for file manipulation. In the case of the Osborne, this means both drives.

I first purchased POWER for my NorthStar Horizon two-drive system. I had been toying with the idea of spending an extra \$500 to add a third drive to make copying easier. I quickly realized that with POWER, I didn't need a third drive: I could put the source disk in the first drive and the destination disk in the second and transfer files directly; I could swap disks around as much as I needed, copying from either drive to the other, and logging on to a new disk without returning to CP/M. Nor did I need a program, like PIP, on practically every disk. In fact, I no longer use nasty old PIP at all.

POWER's COPY facility should appeal particularly to Osborne owners, for whom the addition of a third drive would be a major undertaking which could undermine the essential inexpensiveness, simplicity, and portability of the system.

The COPY facility is only the most obvious and useful of POWER's functions. POWER begins by emulating CP/M functions like DIR, REN, ERA, TYPE, RUN, and SAVE. With POWER, however, only the command is typed: after a carriage return, a menu appears with a list of the files. Next to each filename appears a number. Instead of typing the filename (including extent), it is merely necessary to type the number: the possibility of error is reduced dramatically. A single command will perform its function on as many files as desired: thus listing 1 2 5 will affect (TYPE, COPY, or ERASE) each of these three files. Inclusive numbering is also permitted: thus 5-9 2 will operate on 5, 6 7, 8, 9, and 2; 5- will operate on files from 5 onward; 1- will operate on all the files on the disk.

Logging on to a different drive is accomplished as in CP/M; however, from one drive it is possible to perform a function on another. Thus COPY B: from drive A will bring up a menu of files on drive B. After the files to be copied are designated, POWER asks for the destination drive, which in this case (for Osborne owners) would almost inevitably be A. (An improvement to POWER for Osborne owners would be to eliminate this question, unnecessary for a 2-drive system.) Copying proceeds apace, the screen displaying the file being worked on at any moment. (A recent improvement to POWER allows files to be copied and renamed at the same time.) Any program can be RUN from POWER; an option on the most recent release returns to POWER after the any program has finished executing.

Disk and system information is generated by several variants of the STAT command: this is particularly useful for keeping track of



space available for file copying, and should appeal to owners of single and double density Osbornes alike.

POWER adds great convenience to the USER functions of CP/M, including the ability to access a command file from another user area. Moving files from area to area is a simple matter; also, a PASSWORD utility offers a degree of security to CP/M files not previously available. (I won't dwell on this matter, however, since it will probably not be of such importance to Osborne owners, unless they run a system with a hard disk.)

Ultimately the most crucial of POWER's features are utilities which allow recovery from various kinds of disaster. The simplest command is RECLAIM, which will recover erased files so long as they have not been written over. The most common situation occurs when the user erases a file only to realize on immediate reflection that he didn't mean to do so. A file which was just erased can be recovered immediately with no problem whatsoever. (This is because ERASE doesn't actually destroy the file; rather, it merely alters the directory, like scratching the chapter title out of the table of contents to a book: the actual text of the chapter may still survive. RECLAIM is capable of restoring the "table of contents.")

BDOS errors of one kind or another are the plague of Osborne owners. But when the user encounters such an error, or accidentally reboots or hangs up the Osborne, the most recently used part of the file will survive in memory as long as the power has not been turned off; the part of the file not in memory will have been stored on disk. Thus the entire file can be reclaimed, given the proper utilities.

Rebooting and calling POWER will enable the user to look through memory with the READ and/or DUMP commands. (DUMP should be used first, since some of the READ commands will overwrite memory.) Any part of the "lost" file can be saved to disk with a SAVE command. Any part of the file temporarily saved to disk by WordStar should be in a file with an .\$\$\$ extension--this can be renamed and read directly. Alternatively, it is possible to read the disk directly, find the file, save to memory, and then save to disk. Reconstructing the file may take some doing, but recent work undertaken with WordStar, for example, is relatively easy to restore.

It is usually possible to read a crashed disk with POWER unless the disk is physically damaged. (My greatest personal debt to POWER, and my chief reason for writing this review, was its ability to recover about a dozen disks whose system tracks had been degraded by a misaligned second drive on my Osborne 1.)

READ or READGR will scan the disk in a logical manner, reading huge segments to the screen, or into memory. Files tend to occur on consecutive sectors on the disk, so it is often possible to recover an entire file in one fell swoop. (The best thing to do in this situation is to put a write-protect tab on the crashed disk and save recovered files to a freshly formatted disk in the other drive: here the benefit of having both drives available for reading or writing is particularly obvious.)

Three additional features are of particular benefit to the Osborne 1 owner. First, the default Osborne version of POWER comes with files formatted in three columns, so that no files disappear off the right side of the 52-character screen. The display is easily customized to four columns, for the benefit of those with the 80-column upgrade. Second, wild-card functions can be typed with two asterisks, eliminating the period and thus the need to use the shift key so many times. Finally, a semi-colon can be used in place of the colon in drive designations (i.e. a;filename is the same as a:filename): one of the worst nuisances of the Osborne 1 key-

board layout is thus eliminated.

The hobbyist should find that the READ and DUMP facilities of POWER will serve as a monitor more useful than DDT for roaming around memory and over the disks as he attempts to learn the ins and outs of CP/M and the Osborne 1. The professional will find POWER an investment which may pay for itself in the first week, making CP/M friendlier for the nervous and timid employee, eliminating the need for extra drives, and saving hours of time required to recover from inevitable errors such as unintentional program crashes, crashed or damaged disks, or accidentally erased files. POWER has many additional facilities, but this review cannot go on forever. Suffice it to say that there's more than enough here for everybody.

POWER is available for \$169 from Computing!, 2519 Greenwich, San Francisco, CA 94123.

* * * * *

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HELP

(or That's Not a BUG it's a Feature)

by Bradley S. Albom

Welcome again to the Foghorn Help column. This is the place to send your questions about your Osborne and any software you're using with it. To get your question(s) answered, send a letter of a page or less to:

Bradley S. Albom
c/o COMSOL
The Computer Solutions Company
P.O. Box 206
Pt. Richmond, Calif 94807

If you prefer the phone, you can also leave me a message at (415)-234-8346. It's probably best to use the phone if you have a quick solution to any of the problems brought up in this column. You're also welcome to try and explain your problem to the machine. I can't guarantee a solution, but at least it will get a public airing. Remember, the lead time for this column is three months. If you can wait that long for an answer, fine. If you can't, include a SASE or post card with your mailed in questions.

Brad did not have material early enough to make this month's **FOGHORN**.

* * * * *

APPLICATIONS TOOLBOX

There were no contributions for this column. Please help support your newsletter with contributions. There is no minimum or maximum on the length of the article.

If you have ideas for an article but don't know how to write it, get together with another member who can write but doesn't have an idea.

* * * * *

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SYSTEM NOTES

OL YELLA'S BACK!

by Mel Hulse

Yes, she (he?) got back Friday, the 24th of April, after 12 days gone. How is she? Jus' wonderful. New disk drives to replace my tired, old MPI's. Three new screen widths. Just generally cleaned up wherever she was getting a little threadbare (new facia panel where a screw hole had broken.) Am I happy? You bet your sweet bippy. After the sad stories and rumors all has come out just fine. Thanks OCC, for the 183K of usable double density storage that's especially efficient with the 1K byte CP/M extents. Thanks also for being able to see what I'm writing on my monitor all at once.

What do you get?

Your Ol Ozzie all cleaned up,

A SD Extended Utility Disk with:

A new CP/M System (2.2).

AUTOST.COM. Starts to XDIR.

COPY.COM. (3.2). Lets you specify Single Density or Double Density FORMATTING. COPY produces the same density as the original.

MOVCPM.COM. Works with DD.

SETUP.COM (2.6) Allows different screen sizes and other goodies.

SYSGEN.COM (2.1) Works with DD.

XDIR (3.5).

2 manuals — DD and Screen Pac. Both are clear but sparse. I was hoping for a copy of one of the new grey Ozzie manuals with the two WordStar printer INSTALL errors (the PSCRLF+ should be OB not 11 and PSINIT+ should be 11 not 17 — it reads in decimal instead of the correct HEX.)

A promise that when problems found in version IV.03 of p-SYSTEM are worked out, DD owners will get a copy!

A major improvement in the friendliness(?) of BDOS errors. (If you get one, try either ^C or ESC.)

Yes, you can read the 80 (and even 104) column print on the 5" scope, but not very well. What's great is the far more readable 52 column font and the much greater monitor brightness in 80 and 104 columns.

There'll be lots of time spent by many people working out all the things the upgrade will do and I don't have very much experience yet so I'll stick to the most important things that the last three days have taught me; how to reconfigure.

First, don't waste the time your machine is away. Plan. While you don't have to do anything about DD you bought it so you will want to take advantage of it. You will want to reconfigure to put your programs on DD disks. This will require you to think about what you want on each disk. Reconfiguration time will also be ideal for SAVING catalog entries on your disks. Take the time to decide now which version of the catalog process you are going to

use; My friends use NCAT. Second, if you haven't found out about the ZCPR upgrade to your CP/M Console Command Processor (CCP), for golly sakes read about it in the FOG Library. READ.ME on FOG UTL.011 is a simple explanation. Try out OZCPR on disk UTL.011 on your SD machine if you have a 1.3 monitor (see the sign-on message.) You'll find it's worth it just for the paging TYPE command with WordStar junk elimination! For the DD upgrade I have ONZCPR21 with documentation which I downloaded from Mel Cruts' OXGATE 2 RCP/M in Milpitas, CA. Get it. It works even better than OZCPR. Installation instructions for both are clear if you follow them exactly.

When your Ozzie returns the first thing you must concern yourself with is CP/M. Start with the DD manual and good DD disks. Boot the Extended Utilities disk and format and SYSGEN one of your disks for DD. Now's the time to go through installing the ONZCPR21. Also, it's the time to SETUP your system disk, printer and function keys after you've planned what you want to get at all the time. PIP all the OLD utilities you want to your New Master System disk. PIP over all the utilities on the Extended Utilities disk. This way you'll be sure the new ones are not overlaid by the old ones. If you stick to the existing OCC CP/M system, they'll fit! Take a look around for that great new 4k disk utility (ala WASH) called DISK7 (52 col) & DISK73 (80 col). SWEEP (UTL.013) or WASH (UTL.005) from the FOG library are better but bigger. Look at RPIP on UTL.009 This type of utility is invaluable.

With a good system disk done and checked out you should build the set of 52 column disks you need for portability. Then copy them and reconfigure them as 80/104 column disks. Start with your main program disks. Plan how you are going to combine programs on to DD disks. Be sure you have the utilities you will need the most on program disks. You have room now. From here on you're going through the following cycle for each new disk.

1. Format a disk in DD. COPY won't turn your old disks into DD.
2. SYSGEN it.

3. PIP (or other utility) your old program disk to it. This makes sure your programs are not all jumbled up on the disk. They'll load at their fastest.

4. SAVE a directory entry to it (SAVE 0 B:-.nnn.) I wrote a short MBASIC program to give me a sheet of numbers from 001 to 999. I cross off a number each time I SAVE a directory number to a disk. I manufacture double sided disks with a \$1.50 hole puncher and a card board template so original sides are odd numbers. The other sides are even. 5. Mark the directory entry on its label and the envelope.

6. Do a SETUP. By the way, your new ROM is not the same as 1.4 for DDT function key programming as mentioned in the April/May 1983 Portable Companion, pages 61 — 62. Try - S2026... for the command to get to function key 0 (Step 4.)
7. Do any required INSTALL update (WS, SC, and others you may have). See the Screen Pac Manual.
8. Now copy those disks which will have portable and monitor versions and redo the SETUP and INSTALL functions that have to do with screen size.

You'll be amazed at how many loose disks you suddenly have! I did run into some old SD disks that I couldn't read. These were formatted when my old B drive was sick. I COPIED them with the SD OZZIE in my office (ain't I lucky) which is modified with OSPATCH1 from FOG library disk UTL.015. All are now readable. Perhaps you can get the same help from your local Osborne users group. If you don't have access to a SD Ozzie, OCC says they'll copy each disk for a buck a piece.



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I've found that several of my favorite OCC program mods from the FOG library don't work anymore. Example: WSPATCH from FOG APP.005 which used to give me a blinking cursor and CP/M arrow keys if I fell out of WordStar. We need to have people report what doesn't work so the hackers can get to work on DD versions. It looks to me as if the FOG library will need to put out DD only program disks (in SD)!

I have DISK7, DISK73, and ONZCPR with their DOC files. If they're not already in the FOG library, I'll gladly provide them if Jim Woolley wants them.

I know you'll be happy if yours comes back as fast as mine (given transportation time — I'm in Silicon Valley.) Almost stops me drooling over Executive I & III! Enjoy!!!!

* * * * *

FOG MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renewal notices have gone out for everyone who has or will expire by 8/31/83. Please give this notice prompt attention so that you don't miss any of the issues of the **FOGHORN**. Unless we receive your renewal payment shortly, this could be your last issue. If there is any doubt, check the label on this issue.

The address label on this (and all future issues) has your membership-account number and expiration date on it. Please include this number in any correspondence.

Remember to indicate your local group membership when sending in your renewals so that the group can receive a portion of your dues.

Page 2 of every **FOGHORN** is reserved for membership information and the answers to frequently asked questions. Please take a few minutes to read this information.

PLEASE NOTE: We now have a new (and much larger) post office box. Please use this new address for **ALL** mail from now on.

The new address is:

First Osborne Group (FOG)
P. O. Box 3474
Daly City, CA 94015-0474

Mail processing is greatly speeded if you take a few minutes to indicate on the lower left corner the purpose of your letter.

FOG MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

FOG Disk Library News by Jim Woolley

There were no new disks introduced during the month of May because my machine is being upgraded at the factory.

* * * * *

Where Can We Get a Copy of the Library?

Below is a list of those persons who are listed as having a copy of at least a major part of the current FOG disk library. We will repeat and update this list whenever there is space or a number of new listings. If you have a copy of the library and are not listed here, please let us know immediately. Also, if you are incorrectly listed, please let us know that as well.

Please send all corrections, additions, comments, questions, etc. to P. O. Box 3051, Daly City, CA, 94015. Mark your envelope "LIBRARIAN"

Following is an addition to the names listed in the April **FOGHORN**.

Please remember that the bylaws require FOG membership for access to the library. Until we can arrange membership cards, use the address from your **FOGHORN** for identification as a FOG member. The label has your member number and expiration date so be sure to take a label from a current issue if you have just renewed.

(On this subject, we are considering legal action against the printer who was paid for the cards and who promised delivery last January. If anyone knows of a printer who will produce breakaway cards as part of an oversized postcard, let Gale Rhoades know immediately. Remember that we need the forms perforated for use with a printer.)

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Milt Tiebe
403-454-4392

GUATEMALA
Antigua
Stephen Ray Elliot
c/o CIRMA
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KOREA
Seoul
Ed Grant
c/o PSC Box 3666
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Following is an unaudited financial report as of 12/31/82. The tax return is in the process of being prepared. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the completed tax return as filed with the Internal Revenue Service should send a request accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

FIRST OSBORNE GROUP, INC
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
December 31, 1982
(Unaudited)

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash - Security Pacific	\$ 19475	
Cash - Savings	214	
Cash - Money Market Fund	20000	
		\$ 39689

Inventory - Discs	3433	
Inventory - Other	861	

Prepaid Franchise Tax	200	
Organizational Expense	87	
Deposits	823	
		\$ 45093

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Equipment	\$ 2169	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	325	
		\$ 1844
		\$ 46937
		=====

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accrued Expenses	\$ 1772	
Sales Tax Payable	35	
Rebates to Affiliated Member Organizations	2214	
		\$ 4021

UNEARNED INCOME

Membership Dues	\$ 28872	
Members at Large Dues	5431	
Foreign Members - Postage	876	

CAPITAL

Net Income (Loss) Year Ending 12/31/82	\$ 7738	
		\$ 46937
		=====

FIRST OSBORNE GROUP, INC
STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENSES
December 31, 1982
(Unaudited)

REVENUES:

		%
Membership Dues	\$ 10426	80.96
Members at Large	3450	15.16
Sales less cost	884	3.88

TOTAL	\$ 22760	100.00

EXPENSES:

	\$	
Telephone	344	1.51
Bank Charges	19	.09
Equipment Rental	34	.15
Postage	907	3.98
Supplies	2352	10.33
Office	951	4.18
Publication of FOGHORN	9726	48.30
Professional Services	1853	8.14
Taxes & Licenses	80	.35
Interest	8	.03
Organizational Expenses	22	.10
Depreciation	325	1.43
Miscellaneous	1	.01

TOTAL	\$ 17890	78.60

OTHER INCOME:

	\$	
Contributions	423	1.86
Advertising	2185	9.60
Interest	214	.94
Other	45	.20

TOTAL	\$ 2867	12.60

NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 7738	34.00
	=====	=====

FOG MEMBER MERCHANDISE

Our newest merchandise is the T-shirts with the FOG logo. These T-shirts are soft Osborne blue in color and are Hanes 100% cotton. They are cut large to allow for shrinkage. Sizes available are small (34-36), medium (38-40), large (42-44), and X-large (46-48).

The price is \$8.00 each (two for \$15.00) for members and \$10.00 each for non-members so be sure to include your membership number. Add \$1.00 for shipping.

FOG has several software packages available for sale. SMARTKEY, SMARTPRINT, and the CP/M Extension Utilities were all reviewed in Vol. 1, Issue 10 (August, 1982).

One additional item has been added to the FBN Software line. This is a program called UNPROTECT. We hope to run a review in a later issue.

UNPROTECT is an 8080/8085/Z80 machine language program which runs under CP/M. Its purpose is to decrypt Microsoft BASIC (Release 5) files which have been saved in a protected format. It is hoped that anyone buying and using this software will remember that this program should only be used to correct errors in PROTECTed files of which you have a legal copy. Please bear in mind that piracy is both illegal and a sure way to reduce the software available for your use.

For those who have previously considered buying either SMARTKEY OR SMARTPRINT, there has been a price increase as shown below. This is due to a new marketing contract that FBN has with one of the major software distributors.

Prices on the software are as follows:

SMARTKEY only	\$60.00
SMARTPRINT only	\$35.00
SMARTKEY/SMARTPRINT	\$85.00
CP/M Ext. Utility Pkg	\$39.00
UNPROTECT	\$29.00

We also have available a set of two cassette tapes which are designed for the new Osborne user. Created for a 1.2 rev. model Osborne, the tapes will be very helpful if listening to a step-by-step procedure is an easier way for you (or the family) to learn. The set of tapes are \$25.00

We currently have a good inventory of the software, though we are a little short of the cassette tapes. However, the suppliers can normally ship within a couple of days.

We have one last item in our inventory. This is the "green" screen for the Tan cased machines. Made from green or orange plexiglas, the screens come with necessary mounting. The price is \$5.50. Supply of these screens is limited to the stock on hand.

To order any of these items, please send your payment in an envelope marked "MERCHANDISE" to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please include your membership-account number. If shipment cannot be made within a week, your check will be returned. We cannot sell the manuals separately.

* * * * *

SMARTKEY

This is one of those programs that I really didn't know if it would be useful to me, at least not until I started to experiment with it. SMARTKEY lets you adapt your keyboard to any configuration you like. It's like having every key on the keyboard programmable just like the number keys are through the SETUP program - only the functions of the keys can be changed dynamically, from the keyboard, at any time you want!

One of the OSBUG members has his keyboard laid out like a DEC typesetter. I use it to remember filenames and key words for recall at the touch of a button! SMARTKEY takes up 2k at the top of memory below CP/M, and once in place is "transparent" to the user. You won't even know it's there unless you call it. It can also load the key values from a file in memory, letting you keep an 'automatic' key definition file on each different disc that loads when you boot the program. For those of you who wanted to try the Dvorak keyboard layout, this program makes it easy.

SMARTPRINT

This program is similar to SMARTKEY, but works at the other end of the chain, the printer. It allows you to redefine the codes sent to the printer by your computer. You could use this utility to set up two different printers so they respond the same way to the same keys, or to adapt timing sequences on for some printers easily (once again, a software solution!). You must have SMARTKEY to make this package work!

CP/M Extension utility package

There are seven programs on this disk! SPOOL lets you assign output that would normally go to your printer or screen to a disc file instead. All output is then successively added to that disc file. Now this doesn't sound like much of an advantage, does it? Except that now you can print that disc file using UNSPOOL, and it can be printing while you do something else on your console. It takes a lot less time to write to a disk file than it does to a printer (especially if it is an Epson like mine). You also have all your documents printed at one time while you go about housekeeping in CP/M.

I know you could just get an 8k buffer card for your printer, but this way it's much less expensive. Besides, it's cheating to do it with hardware!!

If you assign the console (screen) output to the disc file, you can get a complete master disc file catalogue by using successive XDIR commands, or even a disassembly of .COM files on disc. There's even a disassembly editor utility, DDTOMAC, that edits a disassembly listing produced by DDT so it is compatible with a normal assembler. (If you're a beginner, don't worry about this. It will only be of use to assembly language programmers. Don't laugh - when I started I was as much of a klutz at that as you think you are!).

RESTORE will bring back that file you just erased by mistake. You know, when you forgot to start the ERA command with "B:" and you just erased the new edited version of your file on the logged disc. Just go to CP/M and say RESTORE <filename> and there it is - back again! Just like magic! What's that? You have a file that was erased but you can't remember it's exact name? Never fear - FDIR is for you! This directory utility will give you the name of all files on the disc, their user number (or 'erased' if they have been erased), the attributes of the file, and its size (in extents).

To keep your directory in order, SORTDIR will re-arrange it, putting it in name or type order, and erasing PERMANENTLY any previously erased files. This makes it much easier to recover an erased file later with no problem due to name conflicts, and makes your files nice and neat when you use DIR.

The final utility is called QSUB. It is another form of Submit command. The primary advantage of QSUB is the ability to specify a string of commands on the command line of CP/M without having to use a separate .SUB file on the disc. (once again, I'm saving all the space on my disc that I can). This is great where you want to load two or more programs in succession, for example, SPOOL then WORDSTAR. The other advantage is that QSUB doesn't write a transient \$\$\$sub file to your disc, meaning QSUB will work in the direct command line mode even on a write protected disc!!!

* * * * *

CONTACTS

Please send any information you have about any user group with portable computer members to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Mark the envelope "CONTACTS".

Below are the latest additions to this list. See January thru March and May, 1982 for previous listings.

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The **FIRST OSBORNE GROUP** has been formed as a Users' Group for persons using or interested in portable computers and/or the CP/M Disk Operating System with related software. Membership is available to any interested party whether or not they currently own a computer. **F O G**, the **FOGHORN** and the diskette library are all supported by volunteer contributions of time, money, and software from all active **F O G** members. Guests are welcome at any local meeting (as long as they do not participate in Piracy or copying of Proprietary software), **but dues of \$24.00 per year** (plus \$6.00 to cover postage costs from non-US addresses) are required in order to receive the **FOGHORN**, have access to the diskette library, or derive other available benefits.

CUT HERE

The **FIRST OSBORNE GROUP (F O G)** Membership Application Form

Renewal Membership Number: Yes No Soon

NAME: Own modem?:

COMPANY: Computer type:

ADDRESS: INTERESTS:

CITY: LOCAL GROUP:

STATE: ZIP/MAIL CODE: COUNTRY:

PHONES:

Send this completed application **AND** your payment to:

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